

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Cancel

2. (currently amended) A method of claim 1 wherein in the preparation of each prepolymer at least one different reactant is employed, where the reactants are selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ aromatic isocyanates, aliphatic isocyanates, araliphatic isocyanates, polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polycarbonate polyols, polyacetal polyols, polycaprolactone polyols, alkylene glycols, polyacrylates polyols, silicone polyols, halogenated polyols, chain extenders, water dispersability enhancing compounds, ~~and~~ or polyols of different molecular weights.

3. (currently amended) A method of preparing an aqueous dispersion of ~~non-uniform polyurethane particles~~ of at least two isocyanate terminated polyurethane prepolymers having different hydrophilicities, wherein said prepolymers are prepared in the same reactor which comprises:

(a) ~~preparing a first prepolymer at least two isocyanate-terminated polyurethane prepolymers having different hydrophilicities;~~

(b) ~~mixing said prepolymers in the absence of water to form a mixture; and protecting (blocking) the unreacted isocyanate groups in the first prepolymer by reacting it with a blocking agent to obtain a blocked first prepolymer;~~

(c) ~~dispersing said mixture of prepolymers in an aqueous medium to form non-uniform particles. preparing a second prepolymer in the presence of said first prepolymer to form a mixture of said prepolymers, wherein said mixture is devoid of water;~~

(d) optionally protecting the unreacted isocyanate groups of the second prepolymer;

(e) optionally repeating the preparation and protecting steps of subsequent prepolymers;

(f) optionally deblocking said protected groups after all prepolymers have been prepared; and

(g) dispersing said mixture of prepolymers in an aqueous medium.

4. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein different hydrophilicities are achieved by incorporating different levels of acid, as measured by weight percent, equivalents or acid number, in neutralized or unneutralized form.

5. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said prepolymers are optionally neutralized or chain extended or both neutralized and chain extended before, during or after the dispersion step.

6. Cancel

7. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein one prepolymer, that is relatively less hydrophilic, has an acid number from 0 to 10, and the other prepolymer, that is relatively more hydrophilic, has an acid number from 20 to 80.

8. (original) A method of claim 7 wherein said less hydrophilic prepolymer has an acid number from 0 to 5 and said relatively more hydrophilic prepolymer has an acid number from 35 to 60.

9. (original) A method of claim 7 wherein said less hydrophilic prepolymer has an acid number below 1 and said relatively more hydrophilic prepolymer has an acid number from 25 to 80.

10. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said prepolymers have the isocyanate (NCO) to active hydrogen equivalent ratio of about 1.3:1 to about 2.5:1.

11. (original) A method of claim 10 wherein said equivalent ratio is about 1.5:1 to about 2.1:1.

12. (original) A method of claim 10 wherein said equivalent ratio is about 1.7:1 to about 2:1.

13. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said prepolymers are neutralized prior to mixing or after mixing the prepolymers but before forming a water dispersion.

14. Cancel

15. (currently amended) A method of claim 3 wherein at least one water-dispersibility enhancing compound is ~~employed with~~ incorporated into one prepolymer or all prepolymers.

16. (currently amended) A method of claim 15 wherein said water-dispersibility enhancing compound is selected from at lease least one non-ionic compound.

17. (currently amended) A method of claim 15 wherein said water-dispersibility compound is selected from dimethylol propionic acid, ~~and/or~~ dimethylol butanoic acid, and combinations thereof.

18. (currently amended) A method of claim 15 wherein ~~either~~ at least one prepolymer contains ~~or both prepolymers contain~~ a water-dispersibility compound that contains both non-ionic and anionic groups.

19. (currently amended) A method of claim 3 wherein a water-dispersibility enhancing compound is incorporated ~~with~~ into all prepolymers.

20. (currently amended) A method of claim 7 wherein a water-dispersibility enhancing compound is incorporated ~~with~~ into said relatively more hydrophilic prepolymer.

21. (currently amended) A method of claim 3 ~~31~~ wherein said polyurethane is crosslinked.

22. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein a surfactant is employed.

23. (original) A method of claim 22 wherein a surfactant is employed during the dispersing stage.

24. (currently amended) A method of claim 3 wherein at ~~lease~~ least one catalyst is employed.

25. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein at least one reactive diluent is employed.

26. (original) A method of claim 25 wherein the reactive diluent is a polymerizable monomer.

27. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein at least one solvent is employed.

28. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein at least one branching monomer is employed.

29. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein at least one plasticizer is employed.

30. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said prepolymers contain carboxyl groups which are neutralized.

31. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein chain extension is carried out.

32. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said non-uniform particles have primarily core-shell morphology.

33. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said non-uniform particles have primarily gradient morphology.

34. (original) A method of claim 3 wherein said non-uniform particles have primarily "ice-cream cone" morphology.

35. (original) A method of claim 1 wherein said non-uniform particles have primarily "raspberry" morphology.

36. (original) A method of claim 1 wherein said non-uniform particles have primarily "salt-and-pepper" morphology.

37. (original) A method of claim 1 wherein said non-uniform particles have two or more different morphologies.

38 to 60 (previously canceled).

61. (previously presented) A method of preparing a prepolymer composition comprising at least two polyurethane prepolymers which comprises:

(a) preparing a first isocyanate terminated prepolymer;

- (b) protecting (blocking) the unreacted isocyanate groups in the first prepolymer by reacting said groups with a blocking agent to obtain a blocked first prepolymer;
- (c) preparing a second isocyanate terminated prepolymer in the presence of the blocked first prepolymer to form a mixture of prepolymers, wherein said mixture is devoid of water;
- (d) optionally protecting the unreacted isocyanate groups of the second prepolymer;
- (e) optionally repeating the preparation and protecting steps of subsequent isocyanate terminated prepolymers;
- (f) optionally deblocking said protected groups after all prepolymers have been prepared.

62. (previously presented) A method of claim 61 further comprising
- (g) dispersing said mixture of prepolymers in the optional presence of at least one chain extender in an aqueous medium to form a dispersion of non-uniform particles; and
 - (h) optionally adding a chain extender after the formation of the dispersion.

63. (new) A method of claim 61 wherein in the preparation of each prepolymer at least one different reactant is employed, where the reactants are selected from aromatic isocyanates, aliphatic isocyanates, araliphatic isocyanates, polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polycarbonate polyols, polyacetal polyols, polycaprolactone polyols, alkylene glycols, polyacrylates polyols, silicone polyols, halogenated polyols, chain extenders, water dispersability enhancing compounds, and polyols of different molecular weights.

64. (new) A method of claim 61 wherein said prepolymers are optionally neutralized or chain extended or both neutralized and chain extended before, during or after the dispersion step.

65. (new) A method of claim 61 wherein said prepolymers are neutralized prior to mixing or after mixing the prepolymers but before forming a water dispersion.

66. (new) A method of claim 61 wherein at least one water-dispersibility enhancing compound is incorporated into at least one prepolymer.

67. (new) A method of claim 66 wherein said water-dispersibility enhancing compound is selected from at least one non-ionic compound.

68. (new) A method of claim 66 wherein said water-dispersibility compound is selected from dimethylol propionic acid, dimethylol butanoic acid, and combinations thereof.

69. (new) A method of claim 61 wherein at least one prepolymer contains a water-dispersibility compound that contains both non-ionic and anionic groups.

70. (new) A method of claim 66 wherein a water-dispersibility enhancing compound is incorporated into all prepolymers.